

Abstract of the Invention

A membrane switch that uses a magnetic force for assisting in the actuation process. A magnet positioned adjacent to the membrane switch causes a magnetic attraction or repulsion that remotely transfers a limited but sufficient force for closing the membrane switch. The invention includes a magnet, a membrane switch, and an actuator. In an attraction actuation embodiment, the actuator is constructed of a magnetically-affected material that is attracted to the magnet to thereby close the membrane switch. In a repulsion actuation embodiment, the actuator is constructed of a magnetic material with the poles of the magnet and actuator inversely aligned such that they repel each other. In both embodiments, the actuating force applied to the magnet or actuator is not directly passed to the membrane switch.